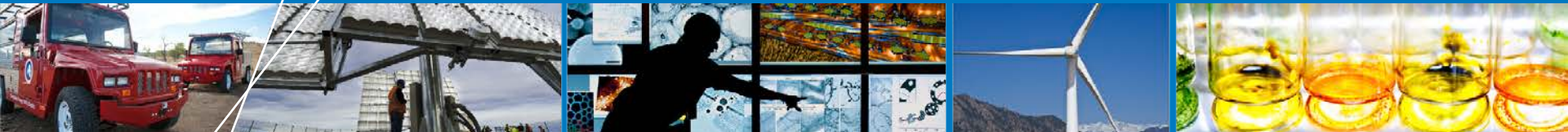


Community Solar Scenario Tool (CSST)



Jason Coughlin and

John Nangle

August 13, 2014

What is STAT?

Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT)

- **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Technologies Office, in coordination with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**
- **Objective**
 - Provide current, credible information on solar policy, program, and regulatory choices to entities positioned to impact the policy environment through:
 - Basic solar education for new officials and staff
 - Partnerships to address specific challenges
 - Topical learning opportunities



To learn more, visit:

http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/stat.html

DIY Solar Market Analysis Summer Series

2nd Wednesday of EVERY MONTH
Noon – 1 pm MST

**Wednesday
MAY 14th**

**Wednesday
JUNE 11th**

**Wednesday
JULY 9th**

**Wednesday
AUGUST
13th**

-
- **Top Solar Tools:**
What are they and how do they help policymakers?
 - **Solar Resource and Technical Potential:**
Finding, using, and making maps for decision makers
 - **PVWatts: What's New?**
Tips and tricks for the latest update
 - **Community Solar Scenario Tool:** Learn to evaluate if a solar garden makes sense in your community

Subscribe here: http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/stat_subscribe.html

We Need Your Feedback!

Please fill out the questionnaire at the end of the webinar.

This feedback will inform our future webinars and education for the STAT.

Community (or Shared) Solar

- Off site solar project which allows customers of a utility to directly benefit from a PV project without having to install the system on their own premises.
- Various ownership options including utility owned and third party owned.
- Participants make a one time up-front payment or monthly payments.
- Participants receive a bill credit either in kWh or \$.
- Numerous examples around the country.



NREL photo database

Example pricing:

- \$780 per solar panel
- \$3.15/Watt
- \$3 per 150 kWh per month (TEP)
- \$3.38-\$25.72/month (SMUD)
- \$0.13/kWh (Orlando)

What Community Solar is Not

- Group Purchase of Solar (Solarize)
 - Community or neighborhood group purchase of individual rooftop systems.
 - Many People – Many Systems

- Community Investment Model
 - Creating access for individuals to invest in solar projects. “crowd funding”
 - e.g. Solar Mosaic (joinmosaic.com)

Database of Existing Projects

The Jackson Family

The Corner Cafe

Greene Elementary School

Shared Renewable Energy helps renters and millions of other American homes, schools and businesses choose clean energy for the first time. [Learn more](#)

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What is Shared Renewable Energy?

Shared Renewable Projects **52**

Search by zip code/state

Add Project Download Project List (csv)

Map Satellite

Google

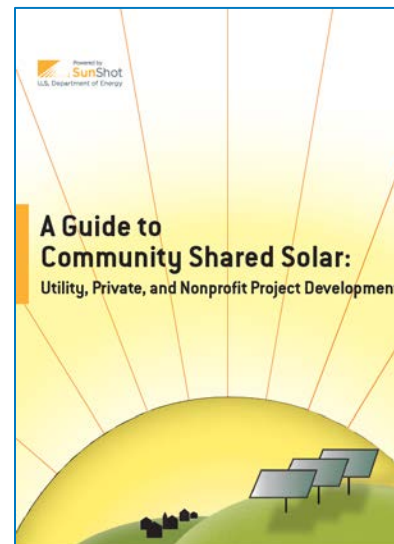
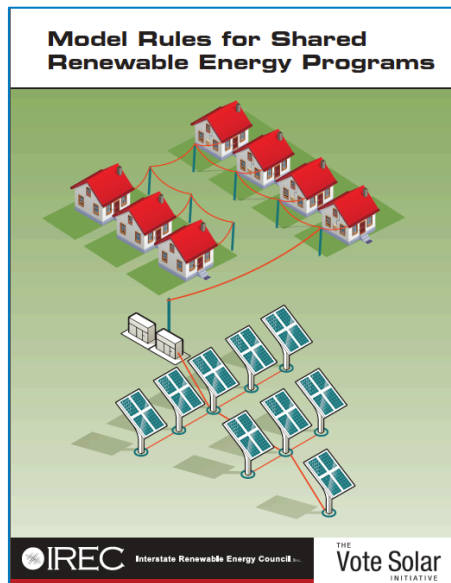
Map data ©2014 Google, INEGI Terms of Use

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VoteSolar Project: <http://www.sharedrenewables.org/>

Further Resources

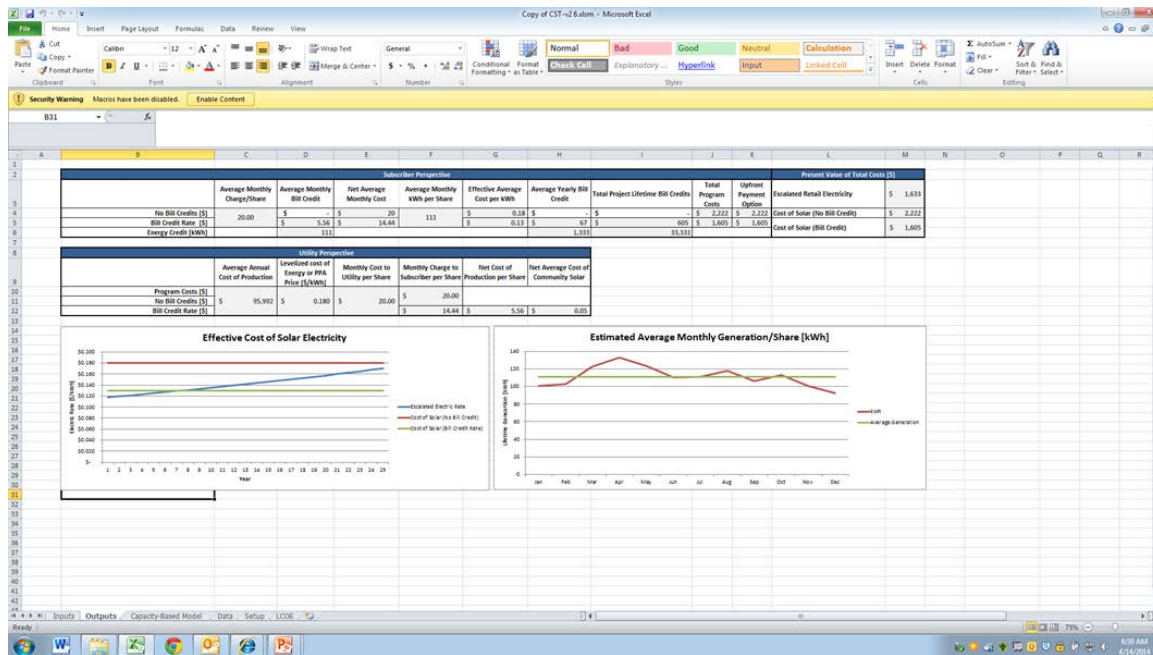
- A Guide to Community Shared Solar <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54570.pdf>
- Shared Renewables HQ: www.sharedrenewables.org
- IREC Shared Renewables Program Catalog: www.irecusa.org/regulatory-reform/shared-renewables/



Slide from presentation given by Erica M. Schroeder. 2013. Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC)

NREL Community Solar Scenario Tool

- Simple, first cut analysis of the economics of a potential community solar program from both the utilities and the customers perspective.
- Target user groups that are new to community solar.
- Tool not currently able to model certain third party developed community solar projects.
- Get user input to refine and improve the tool .



Access the CSST here:

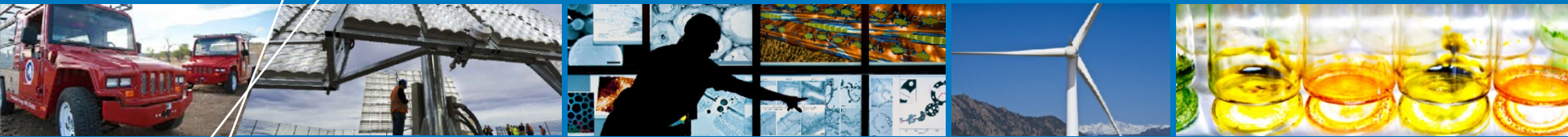
http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/tools_community_solar.html

Orlando Utility Commission (OUC)

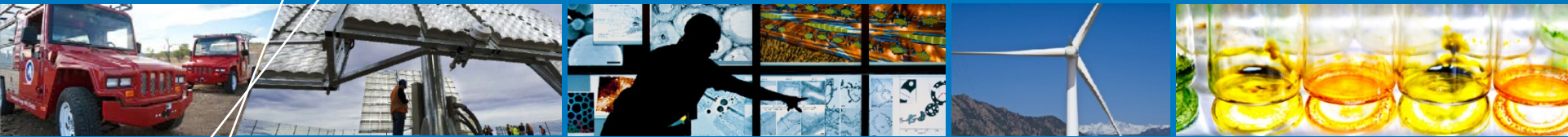
- **400 kW PV Project**
- OUC buys the electricity at \$0.18/kWh under a PPA
- Subscriptions between 1 to 15 kW
- \$0.13/kWh (roughly \$14.56/month for 1 kW)
- \$50 up-front fee
- Solar rate roughly \$0.015-0.025/kWh more than retail rates but fixed for up to 25 years

<http://www.ouc.com/environment-community/solar/community-solar/community-solar-faq#cost>

<http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2013-03-17/business/os-buy-some-ouc-solar-energy-20130317> 1 solar-panels-solar-power-solar-farm



Questions?



Thank You!